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Letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the Viterbo Report: Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action, which reflects the results of a United Nations Forum on Forests country-led initiative, held in Viterbo, Italy, from 17 to 20 March 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document for the third session of the Forum in order to facilitate its work.

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**

* E/CN.18/2003/1.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

UNFF COUNTRY-LED INITIATIVE

Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action

THE VITERBO REPORT

17-20 March 2003, Viterbo, Italy

Co-sponsors: Brazil, China, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, UK, USA
Supported by FAO and the UNFF Secretariat

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A. Introduction

1. This initiative on "Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action" was developed and organised by the governments of Brazil, China, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the support of FAO and the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), 17-20 March 2003 in Viterbo, Italy. The purpose of the initiative, which brought together 109 experts from 50 countries, international organizations and non-government groups, was to support UNFF's work on monitoring, assessment and reporting. (A list of participants is contained at Annex D.) This report is known as The Viterbo Report in honour of the venue and hosts of the initiative.

2. In simple terms the gathering, sharing and use of information is a fundamental requirement to demonstrate action on forests. This in turn is central to supporting the UNFF in its functions related to monitoring, assessment and reporting. The UNFF's multi-year programme of work identifies three aspects of monitoring, assessment and reporting:

- Progress in implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) 1997, and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) 2000;
- Progress towards sustainable management of all types of forests; and
- Review of the effectiveness.

3. This UNFF initiative focused on the first of these three aspects. Monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of the proposals for action agreed by the IPF and IFF. The purpose of these proposals as set out in the IPF mandate is to "further actions in order to combat deforestation and forest degradation and to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests." As such, it is clear that this aspect of monitoring, assessment and reporting cannot be addressed without making the links to the other two. The initiative therefore builds on the "International Expert Meeting on Monitoring Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management" hosted by Japan, 5-8 November 2001.

4. The key objectives for the initiative were to share the lessons learned by countries from their experiences in monitoring and assessing their progress in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and to identify how the UNFF can access and use national information to facilitate further implementation of the proposals.

B. Opening Ceremony

1. The University of Tuscia located in Viterbo provided the venue for the initiative in their new conference facility, the recently renovated buildings of Santa Maria in Gradi. The meeting was opened by co-chairs Paulo Vicentini of Italy's Corpo Forestale and Stephanie Caswell of the US State Department.

2. During the Opening Ceremony, Prof. Marco Mancini, Rector of the University of Tuscia, Giuseppe Di Croce, Director General of Corpo Forestale and Prof. Stefano Grego, Pro-Rector of the University of Tuscia, welcomed participants to Italy and in particular to the facilities of the University of Tuscia. They recognised the importance of the issue of monitoring, assessment and reporting in facilitating efforts by the international community to demonstrate progress on forests. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, Pekka Patosaari, Head and Coordinator of the UNFF Secretariat, and Conceicao Ferreira, Vice Chair of the Bureau of UNFF 3 also addressed the meeting and recognised the critical nature of this issue to the UNFF and the timeliness of this initiative in informing the work of UNFF 3, which convenes in Geneva in May 2003.

C. Approach

1. In "setting the scene" for the meeting, rapporteur Mike Dudley of the UK Forestry Commission underlined the participatory nature of the meeting and its clear focus on monitoring, assessment and reporting in the context of implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action (PfAs). (The Concept Note for the meeting is contained at Annex A.) He explained that the lack of background papers was a deliberate tactic to encourage delegates to share

their experiences without any preconceived notions. The success of the initiative would depend on delegates interacting with each other to share experience and ideas on how to tackle the issue.

2. The meeting consisted of plenary sessions, panel discussions and three working groups. (The agenda is included at Annex B.) The three working groups each considered the following three questions:

1) What approaches to monitoring and implementation of the PfAs do you use and which ones are most helpful?

2) Identify best options for public, private, NGO, bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration to build country capability and capacity to monitor and assess and report.

3) In light of your experience monitoring and assessing implementation of the PfAs:

- How could UNFF facilitate improved implementation of the PfAs through MAR?

- How can countries most effectively make information available to the UNFF?

- How can UNFF sessions be structured to capitalize on information made available by countries?

3. The final results of the informal exchange of ideas in the three working groups, which do not necessarily represent consensus among all working group members, are contained at Annex C.

4. Based on discussions in the three working groups, the meeting agreed to a clear set of 22 conclusions and 21 recommendations for action by countries and international organizations, particularly members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to enhance monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action, as well as ways the UNFF can facilitate international exchange and cooperation related to implementing the proposals.

D. Conclusions

The meeting agreed on the following conclusions:

1. The IPF/IFF proposals for action (PfAs) are a good reference point for national action but need to be applied to individual country conditions.

2. National forest programmes and similar country policy approaches are important frameworks for implementing PfAs.

3. Translating the PfAs into country languages, clarifying the meaning of PfAs and clustering like proposals can promote a better understanding and familiarity of the PfAs among government and non-government stakeholders involved in implementing PfAs at national and sub-national levels.

4. Communication and consultation among government and non-government stakeholders, including processes for public participation, can promote transparency, build confidence and demonstrate the value of implementing PfAs.

5. Not all PfAs are relevant to all countries. A useful first step by countries toward implementation is to analyse which proposals are relevant, which need further work and which are priorities in both the short and long term, and to identify needs. In this regard, initiatives such as "The Six Country Initiative's — Practitioner's Guide" developed under the auspices of the IFF and the "PROFOR/Australian initiative — Fostering National-Level Assessments and Action" have proved helpful.

6. In some situations, countries may find it difficult to identify priorities amongst the PfAs or to see the *implementation of the PfAs as a priority*.

7. Countries are and have been taking a range of actions to improve the sustainable management of their forests (e.g. regarding deforestation and forest degradation, forest law enforcement, reforestation,

stakeholder participation, national forest inventories, national forest programmes, protected areas, certification, market developments) and to monitor the effectiveness of those actions, but not all countries have linked their ongoing and new activities to PfAs.

8. Identifying the linkages between existing policies, programmes and actions toward sustainable forest management and PfAs, and subsequently internalising PfAs into such policies, programmes and actions, are useful steps to monitoring and assessing PfA implementation.

9. Countries are using a wide range of approaches for monitoring, assessing and reporting on implementation of PfAs. These include national forest programs and similar policy frameworks, existing systems for monitoring and assessing forest conditions and management, such as criteria and indicators, and new and innovative methods of collecting and sharing information.

10. National forest inventories and criteria and indicators are useful tools for collecting and disseminating information to stakeholders relevant to a number of PfAs.

11. Monitoring, assessing and reporting on PfA implementation through a transparent and participatory process involving all major groups is needed.

12. Countries need strengthened capacity to implement, monitor and assess PfAs, including financial and technical assistance and knowledge transfer. For example, baseline information at national and subnational levels is needed to monitor, assess and report on implementation of PfAs. The need for and usefulness of international co-operation in providing support in this area has been recognized.

13. Monitoring, assessing and reporting on PfA implementation can involve new costs and administrative burdens. Incorporating PfAs into existing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating programme and policy implementation can be useful and cost-effective. Public-private partnerships can also provide a cost-effective means of monitoring and assessing PfA implementation.

14. Collaboration and partnerships among government and non government stakeholders can be important vehicles for implementing PfAs and monitoring, assessing and reporting on their implementation, providing feed back to governments and promoting political support for action.

15. Competing interests for land use and pressure from other sectors can impact implementation of PfAs and related monitoring, assessing and reporting. Cross sectoral policy approaches can address such issues and highlight forests on national and international policy agendas for sustainable development.

16. Further streamlining and harmonization of forest-related reporting is needed by international conventions and organizations to reduce burdens, improve efficiency, reduce costs and provide more useful information. This may include cross sectoral coordination at the national level.

17. A format for reports which is simple, easily understood and conducive to information exchange is needed.

18. Greater awareness of the potential benefits to countries of reporting to the UNFF and other forest related international fora is needed.

19. In order to be useful, reporting to the UNFF needs to be organized with a view to exchanging information on what countries are doing, including progress made, lessons learned and difficulties encountered. This can facilitate international consultation, co-operation and partnerships with CPF members, as well as among regional, subregional, bilateral and other multilateral partners. This may involve written reports and or other means of communication and information exchange.

20. A flexible approach to reporting to UNFF on progress in implementing PfAs is needed to accommodate the needs, interests and perspectives of different countries and their approaches to monitoring, assessment and reporting. This could include new and innovative approaches.

21. The program of UNFF meetings needs to promote meaningful communication among countries and other stakeholders, for example through panels and side events on specific themes and other mechanisms that encourage the sharing of information.

22. The provision of additional support to enable representation by developing countries at UNFF meetings is needed.

E. Recommendations

In order to facilitate progress on monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of the PfAs, the meeting recommended that:

1. Countries, as needed, translate PfAs into national languages, clarify their meaning, reduce their complexity, and cluster like proposals into a form that can be understood by government and non-government stakeholders at national and sub-national levels. The previous work of "The Six Country Initiative" and the "PROFOR Australian Initiative" may be used for clustering.

2. Countries undertake an initial PfA assessment process to determine which proposals are relevant to a country and which of these should be addressed as priorities through national forest programmes or similar country policy approaches.

3. Countries use and further develop existing processes, such as national forest programs, criteria and indicators or other policy and planning frameworks, to monitor, assess and report on implementation of PfAs in a transparent, participatory and coordinated way.

4. Countries build further linkages between their efforts to monitor, assess and report on implementation of the PfAs and their work on criteria and indicators or similar approaches to assess trends in forest conditions and management.

5. Countries develop and strengthen innovative and cost effective ways to engage government and non-government stakeholders in collaborative efforts and partnerships to help monitor, assess and report on implementation of PfAs, provide feed back on actions taken and promote political support for actions.

6. CPF members, other international organisations, regional institutions and processes, and bilateral partners should support through the provision of financial resources, technical assistance and transfer of appropriate technology and know how, actions to strengthen national capacity and capability for monitoring, assessing and reporting on the implementation of PfAs.

7. Countries seek domestic and external resources, including through new and additional resources and the reallocation of existing resources, to strengthen capacity to monitor, assess and report on the implementation of PfAs.

8. UNFF should facilitate communication and collaboration between countries and CPF members, regional and subregional organisations, other multilateral partners and bilateral partners, with a view to supporting capacity building to monitor, assess and report on the implementation of PfAs.

9. Countries use regional and sub-regional organizations, processes and networks, such as FAO regional forestry commissions, to discuss common problems and share experiences and expertise regarding monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of PfAs.

10. Countries and CPF members create or enhance awareness by government and non-government stakeholders of the benefits of information exchange, including reporting, on PfA implementation at national and international levels, particularly as related to UNFF.

11. CPF continue its work on streamlining and harmonizing forest related reporting to international fora to reduce burdens on countries, improve efficiency, reduce costs and provide more useful information.

12. UNFF give a high priority to its work on monitoring, assessment and reporting, which has an important role to play in demonstrating progress by countries and identifying challenges and needs.

13. UNFF adopt a practical approach to reporting, including a format for written reports which is oriented towards highlighting country approaches and processes, achievements, difficulties overcome, priorities, needs and challenges with respect to implementation of PfAs. The format should be simple, easily understood, flexible and conducive to compilation, analysis and information exchange.

14. UNFF improve the multi-stakeholder dialogue as an integrated element of its sessions to provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of views and information.

15. UNFF facilitate meaningful communication amongst participants through integrating into the main sessions, panels and "side events" on specific themes and other mechanisms that encourage the sharing of information. The UNFF should also encourage countries, international and regional bodies, including issue based organisations such as low forest cover countries (LFCCs), and stakeholder groups to organise intersessional events and activities on relevant topics, and facilitate appropriate support for such events and activities.

16. Countries be encouraged to submit reports in a timely manner consistent with a timetable to be drawn up by the UNFF.

17. UNFF at its third session identify the benefits and value to countries of reporting on their efforts to implement the PfAs.

18. UNFF-CPF establish an internet based clearinghouse mechanism to facilitate access by countries to information and approaches related to monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of PfAs.

19. UNFF establish at its third session the ad hoc Expert Group on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting[1] and include in its mandate the collection of existing country experiences on monitoring, assessment and reporting on PfA implementation and formulation of recommendations on reporting guidelines for use by countries.

20. UNFF also establish at its third session the ad hoc Expert Group on Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies[1] and include in its mandate the identification of needs for and sources of financial and technical support for monitoring, assessing and reporting on implementation of the PfAs.

21. Countries, international and regional organisations, and stakeholders continue their work on monitoring, assessment and reporting related to the implementation of the PfAs.

[1] Para 23 Multi-year programme of Work, Report on the United Nations Forum on Forests first session 11-22 June 2001.

ANNEX A

CONCEPT NOTE

Summary

This initiative has been developed and organised by the governments of Brazil, China, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, with the support of FAO and the UNFF Secretariat, in support of the UNFF to consider the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. The initiative aims to identify ways in which the effective collection and exchange of information on implementation can lead to an expansion of implementation activity. It will provide an opportunity for people, governments and organisations engaged in the collection and exchange of information on implementation to come together, share their experiences and identify innovative ways in which we can capitalise and build on what has already been learned. The key output will be a report for transmission to the third session of the UNFF for consideration under the agenda item on monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Introduction

In simple terms the gathering, sharing and use of information is a fundamental requirement to demonstrate action on forests. This in turn is central to supporting the UNFF in its functions related to monitoring, assessment, and reporting. The UNFF has made a number of decisions related to monitoring, assessment and reporting. The UNFF's Multi-Year Programme of Work identifies three aspects of monitoring assessment and reporting:

- progress in implementation of the proposals for action of the IPF/IFF;
- progress towards sustainable management of all types of forests; and
- review of the effectiveness.

This initiative will focus on the first of these three aspects. However it is clear that one aspect cannot be addressed without making the links to the other two. In November 2001, Japan hosted and co-sponsored, along with Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Norway and the United States, a country-led initiative primarily focused on "progress towards sustainable management of all types of forests." There is now an opportunity to build on the progress made through that initiative by focusing on "progress in implementation of the proposals for action of the IPF/IFF."

Objectives

The key objectives for this initiative are to share the lessons learned by countries from their experiences in monitoring and assessing their own progress in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and through thoughtful discussion identify how the UNFF can access and use national information to facilitate further implementation of the proposals for action.

Approach

Only through sharing experiences can we get a better understanding of the variety of approaches countries have taken to meet their specific needs for monitoring, assessment and reporting and, through this, develop suitable approaches for sharing information at the global level.

Linked to these objectives (and a key element in the development of this initiative from the outset) has been recognition of the importance of active involvement by participants. For that reason the bulk of the agenda for this Initiative is given over to working group sessions with the emphasis on working.

To help orientate participants, the Initiative will commence with a plenary session of presentations by a panel of countries and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The panellists will recount their experiences related to countries' efforts to monitor and assess the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action. The presentations will focus specifically on proposals for action related to a certain UNFF element (i.e. combating deforestation and forest degradation) in order to give concrete examples of approaches to monitoring and assessment. These will serve as examples to encourage panellists and participants to begin exploring key issues.

The Initiative will then break into three working groups to consider a range of questions such as:

- What approaches to monitoring implementation of the Proposals for Action do you use and which ones are most helpful?
- Identify the best options for broad collaboration to build country's capability and capacity to monitor, assess and report.
- In light of your experience, how could UNFF facilitate improved implementation of the proposals for action through monitoring, assessment and reporting?
- How can countries most effectively make information available to UNFF? How can UNFF Sessions be structured to capitalise on information made available by countries?

Regular short plenary sessions will allow reporting back and promote cross- fertilization between the groups. Finally, the groups' findings will be drawn together in plenary and captured in a report of the Initiative.

Actors

Participants have been invited from countries around the world and representing a wide range of interests. The Initiative is scheduled for the week following the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) meeting in Rome, with the idea that this will facilitate the participation of senior officials and national experts involved in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

In recognition that forest information is collected, analysed, and disseminated by a wide range of organizations, and to ensure a broad perspective, representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector entities and other stakeholders are also being invited.

Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other international organizations with an interest in forests will be key participants.

Outputs

The formal output will be a report, which will be submitted to the third session of the UNFF.

It is also anticipated that through sharing experiences participants will take away valuable lessons they can apply in light of their own circumstances.

Links

The issue of reporting on forests and the question of duplication has been raised in a number of international fora and with a range of international bodies. The output of this Initiative, and the approaches identified, should also be of value in considering how to co-ordinate the collection of relevant information. In light of this the organisers have scheduled an informal evening session for a CPF Panel, when CPF members can describe what they are doing in this field and seek feedback from participants.

Conclusions

This Initiative provides an excellent opportunity to take the next steps in assessing how we can most effectively gather and use information to fulfil one of the UNFF's principal functions: "to monitor and assess progress at the national, regional and global levels," and to promote progress towards implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

ANNEX B

MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, March 15

1200-1400 **Conference Registration** at Balletti Palace hotel

Sunday, March 16

1530-2200 **Conference Registration** at Balletti Palace Hotel

1900-2030 **Welcome Reception** at "La Zaffera" hosted by Mayor of Viterbo, Giancarlo Gabbianelli

Monday, March 17

0800-1000 **Registration** at conference site, Santa Maria in Gradi

1000-1115 **Opening Ceremony:** Stephanie Caswell and Paolo Vicentini, Co-Chairs

Welcoming Remarks by:

Prof. Marco Mancini, Rector, University of Tuscia
Giuseppe Di Croce, Director General, Corpo Forestale, Italy
Prof. Stefano Grego, Pro-Rector, University of Tuscia
Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General for Forestry, FAO
Pekka Patosaari, Head and Coordinator, UNFF Secretariat
Conceicao Ferreira, Vice Chair UNFF

1115- 1130 **Coffee Break** — Press Access

1130-1150 **Scene Setting Presentation:** Mike Dudley, UK, Rapporteur

1150-1300 **Plenary Panel Discussion:** Country/FAO experiences with monitoring and assessing implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action in relation to combating deforestation and forest degradation

Panellists: Tasso Resende de Azevedo, Deputy Director, Forestry Department, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil
Linda Hedlund, Head of Forest Policy, Ministry of Industry, Sweden
Tamer Otrakcier, Head of Research, Planning and Coordination, General Directorate of Forestry, Turkey
Peter Holmgren, Chief Forest Resources Management, FAO

1300-1430 **Lunch** at conference site sponsored by Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

1430-1700 **Working Groups I, II, III: Question 1** (see annex)

Working Group I (English)

Chair — Peter Csoka, Hungary; Rapporteur — Linda Hedlund, Sweden.

Working Group II (English)

Chair — Linda Mossop, South Africa; Rapporteur — Ed Brown, USA

Working Group III (English, French, Spanish)

Chair — Jan McAlpine, USA; Rapporteur — Mike Fullerton, Canada

1700-1715 **Coffee break**

1715-1800 **Plenary**: **Reports from Working Groups on Question 1**

1900-2030 **Informal Panel Session** - *Balletti Palace Hotel*

Stakeholder experiences with monitoring and assessing implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action related to combating deforestation and forest degradation

Moderator: Yuji Imaizumi, Japan

Panellists: Ewald Rametsteiner, MCPFE
Marvin Brown, American Forest & Paper Association
Tom Griffiths, Forest Peoples Programme
Andrei Laletin, Friends of Siberian Forests

Tuesday March 18

0900-1030 **Working Groups I, II, III**: **Question 2** (See Annex)

1030-1100 **Coffee break**

1100-1145 **Question 2** - Continued

1145-1230 **Plenary**: **Reports from Working Groups on Question 2**

1230-1400 **Lunch** sponsored by Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

1400-1700 **Working Groups I, II, III**: **Question 3** (See Annex)

1715-1900 **Informal session *at conference site*** - Presentation by members of CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting

Moderator: Xia Jun, China

Presenters:

Michael Martin, Director, Forest Policy and Planning, FAO
Eva Mueller, Assistant Director for Reforestation & Forest Management, ITTO
Susan Braatz, Senior Policy Advisor, UNFF Secretariat
Stefan Hain, Senior Program Officer, UNEP-WCMC
Peter Holmgren, Chief Forest Resources Management, FAO

Wednesday March 19

0900-1000 **Working Groups I, II, III: Question 3** - Continued

1000-1030 **Coffee break**

1030-1200 **Working Groups I, II, III:** Review of conclusions and recommendations, Questions 1, 2, 3

1200-1300 **Plenary:** Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations from Working Groups I, II, III

1400-1600 **Lunch** sponsored by Viterbo Chamber of Commerce at Villa Tedeschi

1630-1830 Guided tour of Viterbo starting from Villa Tedeschi (optional) or return to hotels

2030 **Gala dinner** hosted by Giulio Marini, President of Viterbo Province

Thursday March 20

0830	**Field trip to Monti Cimini Forest** organized by Corpo Forestale
	Buffet lunch provided. Hiking shoes, cold-weather clothing suggested.
	(Buses depart from Balletti and Nibbio Hotels)
AM	*Drafting Group working session*
1400-1700	**Plenary:** Consideration and adoption of final Conclusions and Recommendations
1700-1730	**Closing Ceremony** - Remarks by Prof. Grego, Pro-Rector, University of Tuscia

* * * * *

ANNEX TO THE AGENDA

Working Groups I, II, III should consider the following questions:

1. What approaches to monitoring and implementation of the PFAs do you use and which ones are most helpful?

2. Identify best options for public, private, NGO, bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration to build country capability and capacity to monitor, assess and report. *(Note: This should be more than just a 'wish list.')*

3. In light of your experience monitoring and assessing implementation of the PFAs:

   - How could UNFF facilitate improved implementation of the PFAs through MAR?

   - How can countries most effectively make information available to the UNFF?

   - How can UNFF sessions be structured to capitalize on information made available by countries?

In considering these three questions, Working Groups should identify ways in which more effective collection and exchange of information can:

- Attract more resources for monitoring, assessment and implementation of PFAs

- Better identify progress made

- Lead to replication of that progress

- Expand and improve implementation of the PFAs

ANNEX C

INFORMAL FINAL RESULTS OF WORKING GROUPS I, II and III ON QUESTIONS 1-3

WORKING GROUP I — RECOMMENDATIONS

- *The group considered the importance of facilitating the integration of PfAs into nfps, national biodiversity strategies and other forest-related plans and programmes. Facilitating participation of all major groups as defined in Agenda 21 in the assessment of the relevance of the PfAs, their implementation and the monitoring, assessment, and reporting of progress in their implementation was also considered.*
- To move forward with these objectives, countries should make available the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action (PfAs) in a form that can be understood by actors at national and sub-national levels.

Question 2

- Countries should develop innovative and cost-effective ways to engage major groups in collaborative/cross-sectoral partnerships to increase capability and capacity to monitor, assess, and report on implementation of the PfAs.
- CPF members, other international organisations, and regional institutions and processes should support efforts to strengthen national capacity and capability for monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Question 3

- Work on MAR has to continue throughout the UNFF process, and it must be given high priority.
- CPF members are invited to assist countries in reducing their reporting burden.
- UNFF Secretariat should use reports and information received and highlight examples of use of reported information, and disseminate information on methods for monitoring and reporting. The information provided in reports should be used by UNFF to identify actions to support countries in their efforts to implement PfAs.
- The multi-stakeholder dialogue has to be improved to provide options for a real exchange of views.

WORKING GROUP 2 — CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that, in implementing and monitoring, assessing and reporting on the PFAs, member countries consider:

a. Embarking on an initial assessment process of the PFAs themselves, to decide which PFAs are the most relevant to the member country, considering the resources of the member country, (human, financial, technical, technological), which PFAs should be addressed in the short, medium or long term, and how an inclusive process, involving relevant stakeholders, can be carried out.

b. Designing the implementation plan for the PFAs considered most relevant, through an inclusive process involving as many relevant stakeholders as possible.

c. Monitoring the implementation of the PFAS through the assistance of NGOs, Special Interest Groups, Certification bodies, communities, and independent third parties (scientists, researchers, committees set up for this purpose etc.).

d. Developing, improving, and using internal systems within their national forest programs, or similar processes, including reporting requirements for forest-related MEAs, for effective information collection, monitoring, and assessment, to be used in the formulation of their reports to UNFF.

e. Building further linkages between the MAR on implementation of IPF/IFF PFAs and on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

f. Developing the means to effectively assess the information gathered through the monitoring process.

g. The need for rationalisation of information gathered, in accordance with the approach of the CPF task Force on Stream-lining Forest Related Reporting.

2. It is recommended that existing regional and subregional structures incorporate or institute agenda items, or convene workshops, to share expertise regarding the MAR process, to ensure meaningful reporting on the implementation of the PfAs.

3. It is recommended that NFP processes and similar policy processes, which include the participation of the private sector, NGOs, communities and other stakeholders, be used throughout the MAR process.

4. It is recommended that member countries should endeavour to ensure that reports to the UNFF are submitted in time, according to the timetable recommended to be drawn up by the UNFF secretariat, and include descriptions of successes as well as areas upon which assistance or guidance would be welcomed.

5. It is recommended that it be recognised that some countries require assistance in evaluating the PFAs and thereafter to implement, monitor, assess and report on them, and that therefore financial and other resources are needed to assist some member countries in this process. This could be provided in a number of ways including reallocation of internal resources and/or external assistance.

6. It is recommended that the UNFF facilitate the provision of technical and other assistance to member countries needing such assistance to:

a. attend pertinent international fora or meetings

b. design and implement a national reporting process, which will allow prompt and meaningful reporting to the UNFF, which should be inclusive of stakeholders

c. assess relevant national information in order to submit meaningful reports to the UNFF

7. It is recommended that as "side events" provide a valuable opportunity to exchange information and to learn from others, these events should not be marginalised as a peripheral activity, but should rather be seen as an integral part of UNFF sessions, and be reflected on the agenda. Discussions during UNFF sessions should be more interactive and perhaps be based on the format utilised in the March 2003 COFO meeting. UNFF should consider different locations for UNFF sessions.

8. It is recommended that the UNFF secretariat:

a. Assist countries, regional bodies, issue-based organizations, NGOs and other stakeholder groups to organise intersessional work and events formerly seen as side events, including field trips at UNFF sessions.

b. Assist member countries by disseminating information received to other member countries more effectively.

c. Assist member countries, through the provision of a flexible format for reporting and opportunities for dialogue, containing information on approaches and processes of implementation and the progress made, based on existing agreement on what is needed, and taking into consideration existing reporting systems or processes. CPF should have a role here.

d. Construct and disseminate to all member countries a schedule of reporting deadlines and suggested planning periods, designed to allow for a realistic time period for the collection of information, significant consultation period with relevant stakeholders and effective compilation and analysis of reports, within countries.

e. Analyze the reports received prior to UNFF sessions, in order that significant trends and issues can be discussed at UNFF sessions.

f. Distil from reports received, lessons learnt or best practice guidelines, disseminate these widely to member countries, and utilize these results as a basis for discussion at UNFF sessions, especially with regard to implementation of the PFAs.

g. Analyze the achievements and progress made in implementation of the IPF/IFF PFAs and utilize this analysis as a basis for discussion at UNFF sessions.

h. Draw up a document specifying clearly the rationale for requesting information, to encourage member countries to report.

i. Draw up a document explaining the purpose and format of reporting to encourage stakeholder participation in the MAR process, especially at local or community level.

WORKING GROUP III — TOPICS AND ELEMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNFF, CPF AND MEMBER COUNTRIES

Streamlining

- -- utilize existing work to simplify and reduce the complexity of the proposals, make it available to UNFF members;
- -- recommend that UNFF/CPF establish a clearinghouse mechanism for use by countries on reporting and sources of information;
- -- establish an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to national and international monitoring, assessment and implementation assessment in reporting;
- -- simple reporting;
- -- request CPF to increase its work in streamlining forest reporting, including exploring the potential of streamlining C&I processes;

MAR should Focus on Implementation

- -- recommend that the ad hoc UNFF Expert Group on MAR include in its task the collection of existing country and organization experiences, related reports and recommend guidelines and key points to facilitate implementation;
- -- apply appropriate structures and formats for assessment, monitoring and reporting to facilitate implementation;
- -- structures and formats should be oriented towards successes, priorities or gaps and challenges;
- -- recommend the value of NFP's to foster and assess implementation;

Participatory Approach to MAR

- -- develop or adapt multistakeholder processes or approaches for undertaking MAR in order to stress the need for stakeholders to participate in MAR;
- -- develop/support a co-ordination and participatory framework at the national level, including among focal points for all forest-related processes;
- -- catalog the actions taken by countries to expand their participation in the implementation of the PFA, including in their successes and challenges;
- -- UNFF members should encourage and facilitate the participation of private sector, NGOs and other civil society in MAR;

-- recommend that UNFF/CPF the allocation of adequate resources to cover the transaction costs of multistakeholder participation in MAR, particularly at the National level;

Information and Capacity Building

-- expand/establish/create awareness of the benefits of reporting, including its contribution to advancing SFM, including through workshops and meetings;

-- meaning of the PFA themselves;

-- utilize country reports to identify priority issues requiring financial and technical assistance;

-- coordinate and facilitate access to technical and financial assistance for countries;

-- translate PFA into national languages and communicate content;

-- strengthen regional processes with a view to strengthen their capacity to collect ideas, organize discussions, discuss common problems shared by countries, in order that these processes can be preparatory steps for forest-related meetings.

Institutional Structure

-- Encourage the use of existing regional and sub regional processes, including regional commissions to further MAR;

-- UNFF should request that the Secretariat identify as a matter of priority, focus its preparation of meetings and its development of guidance materials in order to facilitate country sharing of implementation assessment and reporting information on MAR;

-- UNFF sessions should have segments for discussing lessons learned and analysis of policy and practical examples, these segments should involve experts.

ANNEX D

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRIES

Experts from the following countries participated:

Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America and Venezuela.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following international organizations were represented:

DESA/UNFF Secretariat, FAO, ITTO, IUCN-World Conservation Union, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and UNEP.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Non-governmental organizations represented were:

American Forest & Paper Association, Forests Monitor, Forests People Programme, Friends of Siberian Forests, International Council of Forest Product Association, International Institute for Sustainable Development and Pinchot Institute Association.

Participants details can be found in The Viterbo Report as published on the UNFF and FAO web sites.

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Third session
Geneva, 26 May-6 June 2003
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of an international meeting of experts on the theme "The role of planted forests in sustainable forest management", held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 25 to 27 March 2003. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the International Tropical Timber Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

(*Signed*) Don **MacKay**

* E/CN.18/2003/1.

03-31239 (E) 080503

Annex to the letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

THE ROLE OF PLANTED FORESTS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

REPORT OF

THE UNFF INTERSESSIONAL EXPERTS MEETING

25 – 27 March, 2003
Wellington, New Zealand

Sponsored by

The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and ITTO, With the technical support of CIFOR, FAO and IUFRO.

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Introduction

1. The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) sponsored an international meeting of experts entitled "The Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management" to support the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in the implementation of actions to promote sustainable forest management. In addition, technical support for the meeting was provided by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO). Twenty one invited papers and case studies formed the basis of deliberations held in Wellington, New Zealand from 25 - 27 March 2003.

2. This was the second international experts meeting on this topic. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- to promote the role of planted forests and identify ways to maximise their contribution to global sustainable forest management;
- to support countries in implementing actions to promote sustainable forest management;
- to build on the outcomes of the first Expert Consultation on the Role of Planted Forests held in Santiago, Chile in 1999;
- to build consensus through informed dialogue among major interest groups; and
- to support the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in implementing its work programme.

3. The meeting was opened by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon Helen Clark. One hundred and one participants from 45 countries in five continents attended the meeting. A diverse range of sectors was represented at the meeting including governments, the private sector, academia, international and non-governmental organisations and indigenous people's organisations.

4. The programme included three keynote papers and four plenary sessions. The plenary sessions covered the benefits and challenges associated with planted forests, how to ensure sustainable forest management (SFM) and facilitation of SFM. Each session included up to four papers on the subject and was followed by working groups, which addressed a set of questions related to the papers presented. In order to ensure broad participation and in-depth discussion, six working groups were formed each comprising less than 20 experts. The conclusions of the working groups were presented to a plenary session of the expert meeting. The plenary sessions included simultaneous interpretation into three languages, English, French and Spanish. A detailed programme of the meeting is attached as Annex 1.

Background

5. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 recognised the significance of planted forests in sustainable forest management as reflected in the Forest Principles and Chapter 11 of Agenda 21. Subsequently both the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) developed and promoted a diverse

range of proposals for sustainable forest management, several of which related to planted forests.

6. The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was established in October 2000 by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The main objective of this international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. Planted forests play an important role in addressing several issues within the UNFF mandate.

7. Although the important role that planted forests play in sustainable forest management was recognised in UNCED and related fora the matter had not been addressed comprehensively within the framework of the intergovernmental dialogue on forests until 1999. At that time, the Governments of Chile, Denmark, India, New Zealand and Portugal sponsored the first Experts Meeting on the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management in Santiago Chile from 6-10 April 1999. The objective of that meeting was to assist the IFF in recognising and enhancing the role of planted forests as an important element of sustainable forest management. The meeting addressed the underlying causes of deforestation, needs and requirements of countries with low forest cover, future supply and demand for wood and non-wood products, rehabilitation of degraded lands and other relevant issues. This second meeting of experts held in New Zealand was intended to take these recommendations further and to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 2.

Conclusions

8. The Experts Meeting noted the sharp increase in the global area of planted forests over the past decade. It also noted recent FAO statistics indicating that the five percent of total forest area these forests cover provide 35 per cent of the world's wood supply. Wood and wood products are, by far, the most energy efficient and environmentally friendly raw material when compared with competing products such as steel, aluminium and concrete. In these circumstances promoting the multifaceted role of planted forests was seen to contribute greatly to sustainable forest management. The meeting concluded however, that planted forests should not replace natural forests, nor should they adversely affect the livelihoods of forest dependent or indigenous peoples. The meeting concluded that a coherent and stable policy environment was essential to promoting sustainable planted forestry development. Effective stakeholder involvement in decision making related to forest planning and implementation was recognised as a key element of policy. The meeting reaffirmed that planted forests form part of the forest continuum, a concept that was developed at the first Experts Meeting held in Santiago.

9. All forests fulfil a range of roles and provide a wide range of goods and services. The roles fulfilled by planted forests are diverse and the meeting acknowledged the critical importance of the context within which planted forests function and highlighted that the benefits will differ among and within countries in response to local conditions and local drivers. Generalisations of the roles played by planted forests must recognise the importance of context and, for this reason, be treated cautiously.

10. It was noted that different management objectives and practices are used to deliver the variety of goods and services required. For example, the management

objectives of a forest planted with the principal goal of wood production will differ substantially from one that has land rehabilitation as its major goal.

11. It was also noted that society's expectations of planted forests, and hence the principal objectives, may change as a consequence of the long time scales over which many forests will function. The need for adaptive management systems that are able to respond to changing social, environmental, economic and cultural expectations was emphasised.

12. In order to reflect the diverse set of management regimes and ecosystem types the conclusion reached at the first Experts Meeting in Santiago, that a continuum exists from the highly protected conservation forests to productive short rotation planted forests, was reiterated. At one end of the spectrum, the boundary between some planted forests and natural forests is often indistinct and the meeting considered that further information was required on the relationships and interactions between natural and planted forests. Ideally, the roles of planted forests should complement those of natural forests and competitive effects should be minimised. At the other end of the scale, the relationship between planted forests and agricultural practices was considered to be becoming less distinct and agroforestry was considered to fulfil an important role at the interface between agriculture and forestry. The ownership of planted forests is also diverse, including large and small-scale companies, farmers and landowners, governments, communities, and indigenous peoples.

Forest goods and services

13. The goods and services provided by planted forests are well known. They include industrial roundwood, fuelwood, and non-wood forest products (e.g. animal fodder, apiculture, essential oils, tannins, cork, latex, food) and conservation, environmental services (e.g. carbon sequestration, salinity control, biodiversity services) recreation (e.g. hunting, fishing, hiking) erosion control and rehabilitation of degraded land. For countries with low forest cover, the only way to provide the multiple benefits provided by forests, is by creating new forests, mainly through planting.

14. Planted forests play an increasingly important role in the provision of these goods and services at the local, national and international levels. In order to maximise the benefits of planted forests, they need to be responsibly established, sustainably managed and complement the goods and services provided by natural forests.

15. Market acceptance provides incentives for forest owners, whether large or small scale, to invest in sustainable management of planted forests. Among the techniques to assist in this certification and eco-labelling are gaining increasing prominence. At present, markets do not sufficiently reward sustainable behaviour by according a premium to products from sustainably managed forests. It remains a challenge to develop effective mechanisms that enable consumers to share the costs and benefits of SFM.

16. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) aims to uphold and safeguard an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. The WTO also recognises that the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development can and must be mutually supportive with such a trading system. Thus, the international trading framework, particularly through the WTO, should play an important role in

promoting trade in products from sustainably managed planted forests. It can do so in three ways:

- Trade rules should not discriminate against products from sustainably managed planted forests nor penalise those that have invested in SFM;
- Trade liberalisation may also assist the market penetration in affluent markets of goods produced by smaller growers from developing countries who, like their counterparts in more developed nations, have invested in SFM; and
- More effective rules and minimally trade distorting support for planted forests may serve to discourage unsustainable production.

Poverty eradication

17. Presently, 1.2 billion people are living in poverty, particularly in developing countries. A substantial proportion of the world's poor depends on forest resources for subsistence. The United Nations General Assembly has agreed that poverty eradication should be an overriding theme of sustainable development, as reflected in Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

18. In accordance with this commitment, planted forests have an important role to play in eradicating poverty in both developing countries and those areas of developed countries where marginalised groups and indigenous peoples are excluded from the benefits of development processes. In areas where the degradation of forests or land has occurred, planted forests may play an important role in delivering economic and social benefits to communities.

19. In order to fully realise the potential of such forests, a participatory land use planning process needs to take into consideration the direct economic, cultural and social costs and benefits accruing to the community.

20. Planted forests have the potential to provide for sustainable livelihoods, generate community and low investment entrepreneurial opportunities and empower people living in poverty. They may also alleviate the disproportionate impact of poverty on women.

Forest Law Enforcement and Illegal Trade

21. In recent years, illegal logging and illegal trade in timber have tended to severely undermine efforts of many countries to manage their forests, including planted forests, sustainably. It not only impacts on biodiversity and other environmental services provided by forests but also erodes government revenues and the rights of local communities. Illegal practices go beyond illicit logging, encompassing the entire forest production chain from harvesting and transportation through to industrial processing, trade and marketing. The root causes of these illegal practices are varied and complex and need to be addressed in both timber producing and consuming countries.

22. Illicit practices and corruption have recently come to the forefront of the international dialogue on forests and are being addressed by governments, NGOs, the private sector and international organisations. Among the measures promoted to combat illegal forest activity are improved governance, strengthening forest law enforcement and rationalisation of forest policy including promoting planted forestry to reduce the imbalance between timber production and consumption.

23. The effort required to combat illegal logging and illegal trade is not confined to producer countries. Consumer country policies to improve identification of legal timber, incentives for access of legal timber to their markets and closing market opportunities for illegal timber are some of the key elements of such a policy.

24. Timber certification, chain of custody verification and government procurement policies are being increasingly recognised as effective tools to act as deterrents to illegal trade and to promote market opportunities for legally harvested and traded wood products.

Certification and labelling

25. The meeting encouraged the further development and implementation of knowledge and tools for the sustainable management of planted forests. Certification and the intergovernmental criteria and indicator (C&I) processes were considered to play key roles in fostering sustainable management practices. There was widespread support for the role that certification can play in eliminating unsustainable practices at the forest management unit level. However, the meeting noted the need for uniformity and consistency in the application of certification systems and considered that the development of sustainability indicators must be underpinned by sound science. While significant progress has been made in many areas related to economic aspects of SFM, the meeting agreed that there was a lack of knowledge of, and insufficient methodologies for assessing, the environmental, ecological, cultural and spiritual values of planted forests. Further research is required to address this topic and, in general, to advance the knowledge required to implement sustainable management of planted forests. In addition, the indicators and related instruments used to assess SFM must be tailored to the appropriate scale (stand, landscape, regional, national and transboundary).

26. Governments are encouraged to develop appropriate legal and institutional frameworks and create an enabling environment, which may include incentives as appropriate, consistent policy support and stable investment conditions for the application of certification and labelling schemes. Efforts should also be made to develop a more uniform understanding of the role that certification can play in the sustainable management of planted forests.

27. The meeting discouraged the development of any new certification schemes and recommended that mechanisms be investigated to increase the compatibility of current schemes, and where appropriate mutual recognition, in order to improve the overall credibility of certification and labelling. Certification schemes were encouraged to target high standards for SFM and avoid endorsing the application of "lowest common denominator" practices. It was also recommended that they highlight the benefits of products from sustainably managed forests compared to some competing products that are less sustainably produced.

28. In addition, mechanisms are needed to ensure that the costs of certification are equitably distributed and that potential conflicts with global trading rules and disciplines are minimised.

Infrastructure issues

29. The development and implementation of good governance frameworks and mechanisms are essential elements in attaining SFM at the national level. The policies, laws and enforcement mechanisms required to underpin institutional

frameworks should be developed through an open, transparent and participatory consultation process. A strong political commitment to SFM and the development of an appropriate institutional framework are necessary prerequisites for an effective infrastructure.

30. Land tenure and property rights are critical issues that must be addressed in order for policies and laws to be durable and effective. These policies and laws enable the equitable distribution of benefits derived from planted forests. Ideally, a strong research framework should underpin the development of these policies and laws.

31. In addition, a strong and on-going commitment to research and development is critical to sustainable management of planted forests. The meeting specifically identified research needs in the valuing of environmental, social and cultural services and similar intangibles.

32. Initially, incentives may be required in certain instances to ensure responsible establishment and sustainable management of planted forests. However, as both capacity and infrastructure develop, incentives are less important than an effective and progressive enabling environment.

33. Sustainable planted forest development increasingly requires private investment capital. In order to create the appropriate environment to attract investment capital, the laws, policies and institutional structures, including those related to banking and finance, need to be robust and effective.

Knowledge exchange and technology transfer

34. Knowledge exchange and technology transfer were considered essential, but complex, issues. A wide range of stakeholders require a better understanding of the environmental, social and economic outcomes that planted forests may provide. There is a significant pool of information regarding the successes and challenges that planted forests have confronted. The meeting considered that the development of an Internet accessible database of case studies of planted forests would greatly facilitate knowledge exchange. This information should be developed, maintained and disseminated by an unbiased and credible body and be based on sound science. Such a database should include both positive and negative achievements since as much may be learnt from failures as from successes.

35. The meeting also considered that effective knowledge exchange and technology transfer is a participatory process requiring at least a two-way flow of information between stakeholders and the managers of the forest. In many instances, engagement of stakeholders requires flexible and creative approaches to knowledge exchange.

Capacity-building

36. Although countries are frequently categorised as being either developed or developing, they can be at very different stages of development. Also, different levels of development exist within countries as communities may choose to follow different development paths. Under such conditions, the environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of forest activities, including afforestation and reforestation will vary.

37. The establishment of planted forests requires the careful elaboration of forest management plans. These plans should ensure that the forest goods and services are sustainable in environmental, social, cultural and economic terms. This requires a diverse range of expertise including ecology, participatory processes of planning and management of natural resources, site and species matching, tree establishment, forest protection, silvicultural and harvesting operations, forest products marketing and commerce.

38. The availability of these skills depend upon the national and community capacity to invest in research, education and extension. In order to build capacity, mechanisms are required to share knowledge and technologies among countries and communities. Key capacity-building initiatives to ensure planted forests fulfil their potential for sustainable management include communication with society, integration with agriculture, rural extension, technology transfer, knowledge exchange and training.

39. The continuity of any capacity-building process also needs to be ensured. One means of achieving enduring outcomes is to facilitate the close interaction of local, national and international organisations.

Stakeholder interests

40. Effective stakeholder engagement was agreed to be an essential element of the sustainable management of planted forests. The meeting reconfirmed the conclusions and recommendations of the first Experts Meeting held in Santiago, in particular, effectively engaging land owners and all other stakeholders in transparent and inclusive processes in decision making and policy implementation relating to planted forests. Forest managers should acknowledge that a variety of approaches to management are possible and all stakeholders need to be apprised of the benefits and disadvantages of the various management options.

Carbon sequestration

41. It was recognised that planted forests, if soundly planned and managed, could make positive contributions to the proposed actions of various international processes, including the IPF/IFF/UNFF, UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD. In particular, planted forests will play a key role in afforestation issues being addressed within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, the positive benefits of using products from sustainably managed planted forests for global carbon cycles were noted. Particular attention was drawn to the low embedded energy content of such wood products compared with many alternatives such as steel, concrete and aluminium.

42. The meeting considered that there was a need to assist countries to further understand the role that planted forests may play in carbon sequestration and to assist countries in monitoring their performance with respect to international obligations.

43. Opportunities exist, through the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), for countries to contribute to the determination of national forest biomass densities and areas and to provide data sets for verification of national reports and carbon accounting in general.

44. Many countries need to strengthen institutional frameworks and build capacity to implement strategies in order to ensure small-scale forest owners and users will

benefit from opportunities arising under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and to promote increased biofuel utilisation and conversion efficiency to substitute for fossil fuels.

Diversity of planted forest practices

45. The meeting also noted that planted forests have important current and potential roles in meeting the livelihood needs of people, through both wood and non-wood products, as well as in meeting industrial wood needs. Planted forests also serve to meet the needs of urban populations for a diversity of forest goods and services, ranging from fuelwood to recreation and environmental services.

46. Agroforestry, which generally means the deliberate cultivation of trees or other woody plants with crops or pasture for multiple benefits, is an important category of planted forests that may provide farmers, communities and society with a wide array of forest related goods and services. Agroforestry can contribute to the accomplishment of sustainable forest management by providing a set of tree-based conservation and production practices for agricultural lands.

47. Planted forests can contribute a diversity of ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, soil stabilisation, biodiversity conservation and enhancement, ecosystem functionality, salinity control, flood protection and water quality. Realising the potential of planted forests to provide these services depends on supportive policy and market frameworks, which are currently lacking for many ecosystem services.

Relationship between planted and natural forests

48. The relationships between planted and natural forests are complex and it is often difficult to draw clear distinctions. The meeting noted that planted forests should fulfil a complementary role to natural forests. Such a role may be best achieved when planted forests are not established at the expense of natural forests. Thus planted forests may relieve pressures on natural forests with the rights and livelihoods of local peoples being protected. The meeting agreed that strong efforts need to be made by industry, governments and other stakeholder groups to avoid any negative impacts that may be associated with the establishment of planted forests.

49. Concern was expressed that the increasing global trade in forest products may not reflect the full cost of production. In order to address this concern, the meeting encouraged research and analysis to better understand the relationships between planted and natural forests, including assessments of the positive and negative impacts on the products, enterprises and communities.

Planted Forests for Ecological Rehabilitation and Restoration

50. It was recognised that, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions, low forest cover impacts adversely on the economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions of millions of people, mainly in developing countries. These impoverished landscapes are characterised by diminished livelihood opportunities, biodiversity, and ecosystem functionality and productivity. Communities in these countries frequently over-exploit the forest resources to meet their subsistence needs for traditional building materials, fuel, food, livestock fodder and medicines.

51. It was acknowledged that planted forest development in desert landscapes and severely degraded sites generally enhances soil conservation, increases biological

diversity and improves the living conditions of rural communities. However the development of sound forest management strategies, including harvesting, use and recycling, were necessary to ensure sustainability.

52. Planted forests have an important role in landscape restoration, which enhances the contributions of natural resources (agriculture, agroforestry, and forestry), to poverty reduction, minimises communities' environmental and economic risks, improves ecosystem services, and enhances biodiversity conservation. In addition, planted forests may be used to combat desertification and to rehabilitate and restore degraded landscapes. In these instances the financial return on the planted forest investment is unlikely to justify the investment without recognition of the wider economic benefits of improved environmental and social conditions and, as a result, improved livelihoods, including food security and poverty alleviation. Indicator data for use in economic models remains weak for these types of forests and consequently the true value of planted forests in these contexts is rarely determined. Research is required on this topic.

Small-scale growers

53. Small-scale growers are playing an increasingly important role in the establishment and management of planted forests, both in partnership with other actors and independently. Small-scale growers may face significant barriers to participation in tree growing and entry into markets for many forest products. These barriers may include security of land and tree tenure, access to appropriate germplasm and technical advice, cost of certification, rights to harvesting and marketing of forest products and access to finance on appropriate terms.

54. Small-scale growers may also have advantages over larger-scale growers, for example in terms of local innovation and access to local markets for forest goods and services. Enhancing the contribution of planted forests to the livelihoods of small-scale growers, by addressing constraints and facilitating support mechanisms (e.g. smallholder associations, equitable partnerships with other actors), has the potential to substantially increase levels of community interest in and support for planted forests, and expand the extent of small-scale planted forests and their contribution to SFM.

Complementarity of land use and land-use planning

55. As part of a continuum of land uses, planted forests play an important role in contributing to sustainable livelihoods and sustainable forest management in ways that complement that of other land uses. In this context, the contribution of planted forests to sustainable livelihoods and sustainable forest management should be optimised through inclusive participatory land use planning processes at the appropriate scales. These scales vary – e.g., the bioregional scale for biodiversity conservation; the catchment scale for water yield, the individual enterprise scale for business planning. Without appropriate land use planning, the contribution of planted forests to sustainable livelihoods and sustainable forest management is likely to be sub-optimal and possibly unsustainable.

56. An infrastructure that facilitates co-ordinated planning between agriculture, forestry and urban and community development is important. Transparent planning processes that engage landowners and other stakeholders are an essential component of land use planning.

Planted forests and biological diversity

57. The contribution of planted forests to biodiversity conservation and restoration varies with the form of planted forests and their management. Even planted forests with the principal objective of industrial wood production can play an important role in biodiversity conservation and restoration, through providing habitat for particular species, buffering native forest remnants, enhancing connectivity between remnants, and – under particular circumstances – relieving pressure on natural forests. Planted forests established and managed for a wider range of goals than just wood production can play even more significant roles in biodiversity conservation and restoration. There are a range of strategies – for example, establishing a greater diversity of species across the landscape, diversifying forest management and harvesting regimes over space and time, and retaining and restoring natural vegetation landscape elements – which can enhance the biodiversity value of planted forests at relatively low cost to wood production.

Forest-related definitions

58. The meeting recognised that lack of consistent definitions and reliable data had proven problematic in quantifying various natural forests and planted forest resources in both developed and developing countries. It has not always been possible to distinguish planted forests from natural forests where natural species are grown on long rotation and comprise mixed-species and mixed age plantings, especially in temperate and boreal countries. The distinction has been clearer where planting has included single species, even age classes, shorter rotation and intensive management, as often found in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Additionally, incomplete, inconsistent and unreliable data on planted forests had proven significant impediments to analysing status and trends for outlook studies, policy-making, planning and forecasting impacts on raw material supplies and other social, environmental and economic values.

59. It was acknowledged that definitions of forests needed to be based upon designated forest management objectives (purpose) and characteristics reflected by degree of naturalness (intensity of forest management) to describe and report on the continuum from natural forests, modified natural forests, semi-natural forests and planted forests.

60. The meeting supported the *global forest resources assessment process* co-ordinated by FAO in collaboration with UNEP and UNECE under the guidance of an advisory group; and the *harmonisation of forestry related definitions process* co-ordinated by FAO in collaboration with the IPCC, CIFOR, IUFRO and UNEP and a wide range of stakeholders including country experts, academics, scientists, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organisations. It was recognised that harmonisation did not mean standardisation but included adjustments for improved compatibility, consistency, comparability, linkages and hierarchies between terms and documentation of similarities and differences.

Recommendations

61. The Experts Meeting urges the UNFF, other relevant organisations and stakeholders to:

Forest goods and services

(i) Note that planted forests encompass a diverse range from large-scale plantations to small-scale holdings for industrial, protection, rehabilitation and community needs;

(ii) Note that assessment of the role of planted forests in sustainable forest management needs to recognise the critical importance of the ecological, social, cultural and economic contexts within which they function;

(iii) Emphasise that planted forests play an increasingly important role in the provision of a diverse range of goods and services. Policies are needed to promote planted forests that are responsibly established and sustainably managed in order to meet the increasing demand for wood products, fuel wood, non-wood forest products, rehabilitation and restoration, social and environmental services. By fulfilling such roles, planted forests can reduce pressures on natural forests;

(iv) Recognise the positive role that planted forests can play in enhancing ecological and social values, including biodiversity, climate change, rehabilitation of degraded lands, and combating desertification;

(v) Note that planted forests are established sometimes at the expense of natural forests undermining local people's rights and livelihoods (a practice strongly discouraged at the Santiago meeting). Therefore, all necessary measures need to be undertaken by industry, governments and other stakeholder groups to avoid such practices;

(vi) Encourage analysis to better understand the relationships between planted and natural forests, including assessments of the positive and negative impacts on the products, enterprises and communities;

Poverty eradication

(vii) Note that planted forests have an important role to play in poverty eradication. Policies must encourage the development of planted forests that are appropriate to the local context and meet the needs of economically and socially marginalised groups and indigenous peoples;

Infrastructure issues

(viii) Facilitate sustainable management of planted forests through the promotion and implementation of good governance frameworks and mechanisms. Such institutional and regulatory frameworks must, inter alia, address tenure and property rights issues. They require appropriate legislation and effective enforcement and should be developed through a transparent and inclusive consultative process;

(ix) Note that long term, responsible establishment and sustainable management of planted forests requires the progressive development of an enabling environment to realise their full potential at all levels;

(x) Promote integrated land use planning and active landowner and other stakeholder participation in decision making. Such activities need to be integrated with plans for all other land uses. Transparent and inclusive processes that effectively engage stakeholders are an essential component of land-use planning;

Knowledge exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building

(xi) Recognise and promote initiatives that achieve knowledge exchange and technology transfer, including research, communication with society, integration with agriculture, database development, compilation of case studies and training related to planted forests;

(xii) Promote the development of partnerships to facilitate capacity-building and transfer of knowledge and technology particularly at the field level related to planted forests;

(xiii) Pursue urgently research and knowledge exchange to adequately assess the environmental, ecological, social, cultural and spiritual values of planted forests;

Certification and labelling, and trade

(xiv) Encourage the further implementation of sustainable management tools for planted forests, including scientifically based criteria and indicator processes, certification and related instruments;

(xv) Note that the instruments (referred to in recommendation (xiii) used to assess sustainable management of planted forests must be tailored to the appropriate scale (stand, landscape, regional, national, and transboundary);

(xvi) Emphasise that producer and consumer countries and international organisations urgently develop mechanisms, such as procurement policies, certification and chain of custody evidence, to address illegal logging and illegal trade;

(xvii) Establish a dialogue between UNFF and the WTO to clarify the relationship between mechanisms to promote sustainable management of planted forests and current WTO rules and disciplines; and

Forest-related definitions

(xviii) Encourage FAO, IPCC, CIFOR, CBD, IUFRO, UNEP and other relevant stakeholders to urgently build upon the harmonisation of forest-related definitions in particular encompassing planted forests.

It is hoped that this report and its recommendations will be adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests and taken up by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, other relevant international processes, organisations and stakeholders.

Annex

UNFF Intersessional Experts' Meeting on the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management

Inter-Continental Hotel, Wellington

Time	*Day 2 Tuesday 25 March*	*Time*	*Day 3 Wednesday 26 March*	*Time*	*Day 4 Thursday 27 March*
0730	Registration		**2. CHALLENGES**		**4. FACILITATION**
0800		0800	Prof Peter Kanowski (ANU): Challenges to enhancing the Contributions of Planted Forests to SFM	0800	Mohd Mydin & Abdul Rahim: Factors Affecting Facilitation of SFM in Planted Forests — An Overview
0830	Opening Ceremony Welcome by Prime Minister	0820	Carnus/Parrotta/Brockerhoff et.al. (IUFRO): Planted Forests & Biodiversity	0820	Alastair Sarre (ITTO): Trade & SFM
0900	**Morning Tea**	0840	Peter Lawrence (AFFA): Maximising the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management: The Australian Experience in Addressing Challenges	0840	Durst, Enters & Brown (FAO): Role of Incentives
0930	Introduction & Keynote Papers Address by Pekka Patosaari Head of UNFF Secretariat	0900	Devon McLean (NZFIC): A Forest Industry Approach to SFM	0900	Weber & Prado: Chile's Experience in Facilitation
1000	Dr Wink Sutton: The World's Most Sustainable Raw Material	0920	Discussion	0920	Jim Carle (FAO): Definitions Related to Planted Forests
1030	Dr David Victor (Stanford): Restoring the Forests	0950	Working Groups	0940	Discussion
1100	Dr Chris Elliott (WWF): WWF Vision for Planted Forests	1130	Report back: Plenary discussion	1010	Working Groups
1130	Panel Discussion	1230	**LUNCH**	1100	
1200	Questions from the Floor		**3. ENSURING SFM**	1130	Report back to Plenary
1230	**LUNCH**	1330	Guy Salmon: An Overview — Ensuring SFM	1230	Any other issues/wrap up
1330	**1. BENEFITS**	1350	Grant Rosoman & Murray Parrish: The New Zealand Certification Experience	1300	Side event — FSC and Certification
1330	Bill Dyck: Benefits of Planted Forests: Social, Ecological and Economic	1410	Winston Smit & Michael Pitcher: A Case Study from Sth Africa on Ensuring SFM of Planted Forests	1300	**LUNCH**
1350	Stewart Magginis (IUCN): The Role of Planted Forests in Forest Landscape Restoration	1430	Ruark, Schoeneberger & Nair (USDA): The Role of Agroforestry	1330	

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Time	*Day 2 Tuesday 25 March*	*Time*	*Day 3 Wednesday 26 March*	*Time*	*Day 4 Thursday 27 March*
1410	Tim Rollinson (Forestry Commission, United Kingdom): Changing Needs, Changing Forests: The UK Experience	1450	Discussion	1400	Sightseeing tour of Wellington Region
1430	Marian Chiu (NRCan): Canada — A Land of Plantations?	1530	Working Groups	1730	**5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
1450	George Asher (FOMA): Maori and Sustainable Forestry	1700	Report back: Plenary discussion	1800	
1510	Discussion		**Side Event**	1830	**CLOSING**
1540	Working Groups	1845	New Zealand Experience in Planted Forestry: NZIF (Refreshments provided)	1900	Evening Free
1710	Report Back: Plenary discussion	2000	Buffet Dinner Sponsored by Air New Zealand	2000	
1810	Conclude day's sessions	2100		2100	
1900	Banquet Hall, Parliament	2200			
1900	Cocktails: (Executive Wing Foyer)				
1930	Cultural Show & dinner hosted by the Minister of Forestry				
2300					